

AUTOMATIC SELECTION OF STIMULATION CHAMBER FOR VENTRICULAR RESYNCHRONIZATION THERAPY

Cross-Reference to Related Application(s)

5 This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/738,407,
now U.S. Pat. No. 6,622,040,
filed on December 15, 2000, the specification of which is incorporated herein by
reference.

Technical Field

10 The present invention relates to medical devices and in particular to a medical
device for automatically selecting stimulation chamber, or chambers, based on sensed
cardiac signals.

Background

15 When functioning properly, the human heart maintains its own intrinsic
rhythm, and is capable of pumping adequate blood throughout the body's circulatory
system. However, some people have irregular cardiac rhythms, referred to as cardiac
arrhythmias. Such arrhythmias result in diminished blood circulation. One mode of
treating cardiac arrhythmias uses drug therapy. Drugs are often effective at restoring
20 normal heart rhythms. However, drug therapy is not always effective for treating
arrhythmias of certain patients. For such patients, an alternative mode of treatment is
needed. One such alternative mode of treatment includes the use of a cardiac rhythm
management system. Such systems are often implanted in the patient and deliver
therapy to the heart.

25 Cardiac rhythm management systems include, among other things, pacemakers,
also referred to as pacers. Pacers deliver timed sequences of low energy electrical
stimuli, called pace pulses, to the heart, such as via an intravascular leadwire or
catheter (referred to as a "lead") having one or more electrodes disposed in or about